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Black Aesthetic

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Black Aesthetic

Stephen Clark

Her hands are barely big enough to grasp an apple, with small lines in them like cracks in cement. She combs her hair and runs her fingers through it lethargically. Her fingers remind me of slender chopsticks, and her hair resembles dark curled African vines. I realize that she has just washed it and I say, "You look beautiful with your hair natural," but I am drowned out by her hair dryer, and she says to me, "I'll be ready in a minute." After thirty minutes, the Nubian Cleopatra had disappeared, and I see before me an ebony magazine look-a-like, with contact coated eyes and hair as silky and straight as Tyra Banks, a copy of a copy. She smiles at me and asks "What do you think?" I reply "Gorgeous."